Fishing boats hired by ONGC

1578. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has hired a number of fishing boats and trawlers for various purposes;

(b) if so, the details of number, type and rental being paid;

(c) whether ONGC has been paying high rates as rents for all leased vessels;

(d) the steps proposed by ONGC to reduce costs; and

(e) the measures Government will take to make ONGC focus on exploration in India rather than overseas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of hired fishing boats and trawlers are as under:—

- Number of Fishing boats (chase boats) hired: Six.
- Type of Boats: Fishing Boats (chase boats)
- Rentals:

  Average Mobilization Charges from any port of Western coast per field season—Rs. 15,000/- per boat.

  Average De-Mobilization Charges from any port of Western Coast-Rs. 10,000/-perboat.

  Operational Charges per day—Rs. 2,100/-per boat.

  Standby Charges per day—Rs.2,000/-per boat.

  Fuel consumption per boat per day—80 Ltrs.
- 14 trawlers are hired every year only for fair weather season *i.e.* from September to May. These are normal fishing trawlers with additional safety and fire equipment. Presently the day rate for each trawler is Rs. 3350/-. Fuel is supplied by ONGC.

(c) and (d) The vessels are hired through an open tender and contract is awarded to the lowest bidder.

(e) ONGC enters into Moll with Government of India every year which *inter-alia* includes exploration activities and targets to be achieved in respect of production, transportation etc. of oil and gas both in India and overseas.

Adulteration of petroleum products

1579. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKER REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: '

(a) whether it is a fact that the difference in price between subsidized and non-subsidized kerosene is a cause for adulteration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are according top priority to preventing aduIteration of petroleum products;

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard during the last three years; and

(e) the number of cases filed and disposed off during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants including Kerosene available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel. To check adulteration in auto fuels and diversion of PDS Kerosene, Government has asked Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps to contain the menace of adulteration:—

(i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have requested the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take steps to control adulteration.

(ii) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in